

PATCO journal



Pennsylvania Area Token Collectors Organization

Volume 15-Issue 1

In this issue:

"Morgan Bros. A PA or WV Token?" by Jim Wiley
"Conneaut Park Issues TT" by Rich Bottles, Jr.
& WPNS Encased Items Update



(Since a lot of people's first impression of the above is that it's "some kind of token" - or damn Canadian coin - we're featuring the PA Quarter on our cover. The original design above was slightly changed to give the word "Virtue" more prominence on the actual coin after the Governor heard of the state's climbing teen pregnancy rate, according to PATCO sources).

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Applications for membership and information on
dues should be directed to: Secretary-Treasurer Jim
Hartman, P.O. Box 1702, Beaver Falls, PA 15010

All paid ads should be "Camera Ready" (designed
and laid out by you) for publication in order to avoid
additional charges, and should be sent to: Editor Rich
Bottles Jr., 589 S. Pike St., Shinnston, WV 26431

Morgan Bros: A Pennsylvania or West
Virginia Token?

by: Jim Wiley

As most of you know I am a fervent collector of West Virginia Trade Tokens, particularly those from Wheeling and its close environs. Since my wife grew up in the West Alexander, Pennsylvania area - a small village which is literally a stone's throw from the West Virginia state line - I have grown familiar with some of the local businesses which might have issued tokens. One such business which has an interesting history is Morgan Brothers, a saloon abutting the Pennsylvania border near West Alexander. An older friend of ours who lives in West Alexander and who once worked at Morgan's remembers it as a rather wild place at which "under-age" Pennsylvania boys would wander across to this West Virginia saloon to drink, gamble and sow some wild oats.

Several years ago I was fortunate to purchase a token from Morgan Brothers. It reads like this: MORGAN BROS./WEST/ALEXANDER//GOOD FOR/5/IN TRADE (B-round-21mm). My collector friends of Western Pennsylvania tokens cry "West Alexander! A Pennsylvania token!!" I, however, contend this a West Virginia token with a Pennsylvania address. Say what? Well, Morgan Bros. was located in West Virginia and it is listed in the 1914 Bradstreet as a saloon with a Valley Grove, West Virginia mailing address.

Since my primary collecting interest is West Virginia trade tokens, I shall continue claiming the Morgan Bros. token as a West Virginia token with a Pennsylvania address. Perhaps when a Pennsylvania collector teases me with a Wheeling bi-metallic saloon token I shall trade it and it will undoubtedly be re-christened as a Pennsylvania token.



Conneaut Lake Park Issues Long-Winded Transportation Token

By Rich Bottles Jr.

The thing has been around for two years, but it hasn't gotten much notice, even though it is a token that is directly used for amusement park rides (among other things) in Crawford County, Pennsylvania.

The 25mm brass tokens are sold for a dollar apiece inside the 100plus-year-old amusement park. The tokens can then be exchanged for rides, food and games of skill/chance. The rides cost between one and three tokens, depending on whether you ride a carousal or the Blue Streak Roller Coaster.

An interesting aspect of the token is the amount of information that is jammed into the obverse and reverse designs. "Liberty" is promoted on both sides, and each side features the name of some obscure person who has yet to reach the Barnum-level of amusement promotion fame.

The obverse, which displays a logo design of the sun rising/setting over a wooded lake, has the following inscriptions: LIBERTY TOKEN / SINCE 1892 / (sun/trees) / Conneaut Lake Park / Blue Streak Commemorative Edition / Rebuilt by Don C. Schanz / 1997.

The reverse reads: Preserve Your Rights - Know Your Constitution / Yours in Liberty / G. John Harris / \$ / RWM / RIDES (dot) FOOD (dot) GAMES.



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

ENCASED ITEMS ADDED SINCE 6/30/1986

NUMBER	NAME	SHAPE	DATE
002A	Adler's / Store / Duquesne, Pa.	HS	1960 D
003A	Allegheny Valley Bank of Pgh. / Blawnox	Round	1967
003B	American Fur Company / 119 Federal	Round	1947
007A	Archies Automatic Car Wash	HS	1956 D
008A	Auerbach Furniture (no phone #)	HS	1947
009A	Ed Baranowski / So. 18th St.	Round	1945
009B	Balter's-Jaisons / Braddock-McKeesport	HS	1947
009C	Barton Motor Co./Kaiser - Frazer	HS	1950 D
010A	Bauman Chevrolet / Wilkinsburg	Round	1948 D
010B	Ben's Quality Grocery	Round	????
011A	Billiken Shoes / Zanon Shoe Store	Round	1958
011B	Blynn's Shoes	Round	1946 D
013A	Wm. H. Brant Sons / Dodge-Plymouth	HS	1949
013B	Brant Motor Co.	HS	1959 D
016A	Bridgeville 50th Ann. 1951	HS	1951 D
017A	Brinker Supply Co. / (2 Star / Straight)	HS	1947 D
017B	Brinker Supply / (Plain / Curved)	HS	1953 D
018A	Canyasayamerton / WEDO	Round	1953 D
019A	V. Carlson / Jeweler	Mirror Round	1910
022A	Circus Bar / Swissvale	HS	1948
027A	Corsello Sales / Linden phone #	HS	1952 D
038A	Downtown Motors	HS	1957 D
042A	Duquesne Trust Co.	Round	1927
042B	Economy Hardware & Appliances	HS	???
043A	Educators Mutual / Charles Haney	Gr/Pl HS	1957
043B	First Federal Savings / 50th Ann.	HS	1949 D
049A	Richard A. Gaetano	HS	1989 D
051A	Gateway Clipper	HS	1962 D
054A	Goetz's Confectionery / Tarentum	Round	1920
059A	H. L. Green (McKeesport)	HS	1959
059B	Gregg Motor Co.	HS	1945?
062A	Hall Electric Co.	Lg/Ltr Round	1945?
067A	Heeren Bros. & Co.	Round	1901
067B	Helfers Credit Jewelers	HS	1927
068A	Himmer Motors / Coraopolis	HS	1946
069A	J. Hirshberg / McKeesport / GF \$2.00	HS	1928
078A	International S & L Co. / 5 Symbols Rev.	Round	1906
081A	Kamin Chevrolet Co.	Round	1948 D
085A	Keystone Shoes / Bridgeville	Round	1960 D
089A	Kuban Music / Homestead	PI HS	1956
092A	Levinson Jewelry Co.	HS	1928
097A	Lincoln Savings / Carnegie-Collier	Round	1957 D
102A	Lucky Lady Liken Employment	HS	1958 D
110A	Milly's / Used Cars / McKees Rocks	HS	1947
111A	S. Jos. Morrell / Auto-Fire / Insurance	HS	1951 D
112A	Moyer Auto Service	Round	1946
112B	John H. Motosicke / Jeweler	Round	1928
114A	Daniel McCaffery's / Son Co.	HS	1910

116A	McCullough - Whitfield 910 Wood	Round	???
119A	Numismatic News A.N.A. / 1989	Red Al Round	1943
120A	J. C. Nock / 4 N. Diamond St.	HS	1955 D
126A	Palmer Pontiac / McKeesport	HS	1950 D
128A	Penn Bolt & Nut Co.	Round	1957 D
136	Pittsburgh, Pa. Bicentennial	Gr/Pl HS	1957 D
143A	Plumbers Equipment Co.	Round	1948 D
148A	Rebekahs and Odd Fellows Reception	HS	1934
149A	Regina Elena	HS	1946
153A	Satisfaction System Stores	Mirror Oval	1910
154A	David Scharf / Beer / East Liberty	HS	1947
154B	Second U. P. Church / Wilkinsburg	Round	1883 V 5c
159A	Silver Dollar Bar	Round	1951 D
162A	Sirlin & Leonard Funeral Home	Sm/Ltr Round	1959 D
162B	Sirlin & Leonard Mortuary	Sm/Ltr Round	1963 D
162C	Sirlin & Leonard Mortuary	Curve Round	1964
162D	Sirlin & Leonard Mortuary / N.S.	Lg/Ltr Round	1966
165A	Wm. Sirlin Mortuary / 2 ph#5 digits	Round	1948 S
166A	Wm. Sirlin Mortuary	Round	1946
169A	South Hills Coin Club	Round	1989 D
175A	Suburban Buick Inc.	HS	1947
181A	Thrift Hardware	HS	1949 D
182A	Troy Pharmacy	Round	1983 D
184A	Ungar's Hardware	HS	1951 D
185A	Victor Shoe Co.	Round	1945
187A	J. G. Vortish & Son / Phone #	Round	1940
188A	WCAE Henny Penny	HS	1959
191A	Weakland's Mens Shopping Center / Braddock	HS	1955
193A	Ray E. Weaver / Etna	HS	1949
194A	Weber-Erickson-Bunting Co.	Round	1911
195A	Wenzel's Cafe / Springdale, Pa.	HS	1952 D
196A	West Elizabeth Lumber Co.	HS	1946
196B	West Liberty Car Wash	Pl HS	1956 D
196C	West Elizabeth Lumber Co. / Industrial	HS	1948
199A	Wing Ding KDKA TV	HS	1963
199B	Wilkinsburg Federal Savings	Round	1960 D
201A	Zeigler Lumber / Duquesne, Pa.	Pl HS	1949



Numismatists

January 18, 1999

TO ALL COLLECTOR CLUBS:

Please publish the following announcement in the time-appropriate newsletter/publication of your club:

YOU ARE INVITED!

WHAT: PAN COIN SHOW
Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists

WHEN: May 7, 8, 9, 1999
Open to public 10:00AM daily

WHERE: The Pittsburgh ExpoMart
Monroeville PA
RT. 22 EX off Exit 6 -PA turnpike

WHY: Over 125 Quality Dealers
to Buy - Sell - Trade
FREE PARKING - FREE ADMISSION
Meetings - Raffle - Drawings

Bourse Chairman: John Paul Sarosi

**PATCO SWAP & MEETING
Saturday, May 8, 1999**

A PATCO club meeting and swap will be held from 10:30 a.m. to Noon at the Pittsburgh Expomart in Monroeville, PA (near the Monroeville Mall), along Business Route 22.

The PATCO meeting is being held in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatics (PAN) Show. Look for signs near the bourse floor to direct you to the PATCO meeting area.

To gain access to Route 22 in Monroeville - Take Exit 6 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike (Route 76), or take the Penn-Lincoln Parkway East (Route 365) from the City of Pittsburgh.

PATCO journal



Pennsylvania Area Token Collectors Organization

Volume 15-Issue 2

In this issue:

"Does a New Guy Have a Chance?" by Vic Nolan

"Pennsylvania Rollercoaster Exonumia"

by Rich Bottles, Jr.



(Claiming to represent "Pittsburg's Lost Kennywood," this is actually a rip-off of Pittsburg's Luna Park gate. Other PA parks are celebrating their own history)

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Bottles Jr., 1620 Crestmont Circle, Fairmont, WV 26554

Pennsylvania Rollercoaster Exonumia

by Rich Bottles Jr.

In the last issue of the PATCO Journal, whenever that was, I described a "new" transportation token that had been issued by Conneaut Lake Park in Conneaut, Pennsylvania, in 1997. Well, get your pens ready to write to the Fare Box again, because PATCO has some more news for you attribution junkies.

Two more Pennsylvania amusement park tokens, which are good for rides, have since been issued, but this time neither one specifically states on the token that it is good for a "RIDE." None the less, the tokens were used for rides on amusement park attractions and probably will still be in use next season unless some type of New Issues Service helps make them obsolete.

If you - or your grandparents - can remember back to the last issue of the PATCO Journal, I announced that Conneaut Lake Park issued a 25mm brass token dated 1997, which had the following lengthy inscriptions:

Obverse - LIBERTY TOKEN / SINCE 1892 / (sun/trees logo) / Conneaut Lake Park / Blue Streak Commemorative Edition / Rebuilt by Don C. Schantz / 1997.

Reverse - Preserve Your Rights - Know Your Constitution / Yours in Liberty / G. John Harris / \$ / RWM / RIDES (dot) FOOD (dot) GAMES.

Well, I guess since the token designers couldn't quite fit all the words they wanted to squeeze onto the 1997 token, they decided to issue a different design the following year. This time, they didn't waste any space listing what the token was "good for," because it was imperative that they fit Don Guckert's Memorial onto the 1998 token.

Continued...

Continued...

Although Mr. Guckert had died back in 1996, it was a disgrace on park management that he was not immortalized on a token until 1998, considering the national headlines and displays of public mourning that had accompanied his passing. Indeed, who can not remember exactly what he or she had been doing on the fateful day that they first heard the news of Don Guckert's death?

Even though President Clinton reportedly vetoed Congress's plans to create a new Federal Holiday in Don Guckert's memory, we at least now have a token with his portrait that will help us remember him and the vital role he played in amusement park history.

Yes, on 1997's token, it was *Don C. Schantz* who got all the credit for rebuilding the Blue Streak Rollercoaster and it was *G. John Harris* who got all the credit for fighting for everyone's Constitutional right to attend the amusement park of their choice, but wasn't it Don Guckert who had the inspiration and motivation to make the bold decision to add blueberry to the list of Snocone flavorings offered at Conneaut?!

* The inscriptions on the 25mm, brass, 1998 token are as follows:

Obverse - LIBERTY TOKEN / SINCE 1892 / (sun/trees logo) / Conneaut Lake Park / A Good Friend / For 27 Years / RMW / 1998.

Reverse - IN FOND MEMORY OF DON GUCKERT / (stock portrait of Walt Disney) / 1932-1996.

But the above token, which was also redeemable for rides, food and games, was issued in 1998; and as many of our more observant, calendar-owning readers know, the 1999 amusement park season has just ended.

Many owners of the 1997 and 1998 tokens rushed back to the park this year to see what famous personality would be honored on the 1999 token. Would it be Rotgut Joe who used to tend bar next to the Spider ride, or Aggie the public restroom janitor?

Much to the 1999 patrons' dismay, no new token was issued this year. Thus, we can only hope that a Millennium piece will be issued next year to honor more of the unsung heroes of Conneaut Lake Park. Personally, I would like to see the person honored who decided to bulldoze Fairyland Forest to make more parking available.

Continued...

Continued...

Conneaut Lake Park may have missed a beat in failing to issue a 1999 token, but another Pennsylvania amusement park filled the void with a ride token of its own for 1999. And there's not but seven words, plus the date, on the entire token.

The piece was issued by Lakemont Park in Altoona and was used exclusively to ride the "Leap The Dips" rollercoaster, which hadn't been leaping any dips for 14 years. The ride tokens cost \$2.50 apiece and the proceeds go toward the restoration costs of the ride.

* The inscriptions on the 22mm, brass, 1999 token are as follows:

Obverse - LAKEMONT PARK / ALTOONA, PA

Reverse - LEAP THE DIPS / TM / 1902 / RWM

What do you get for your \$2.50 (which is in addition to the park admission)? After you wait in line like your forefathers have done since 1902, you take a seat in one of seven wooden cars, which are manually pushed up to a connecting chain by a wily teenaged ride attendant. Once the greased chain attaches to your car, it's pulled up the lift hill where it's finally released on a thrilling 60-second ride that includes one periling 6-foot drop (that's 72 terrifying inches, folks!) at blistering speeds of almost 10-miles-per-hour (don't try that in a School Zone!).

Five years ago, Lakemont Park recognized its 100th anniversary by issuing an individually-numbered, 38mm, bronze medal which is still sold at the park's gift shop. The inscriptions on the medal are as follows:

Obverse - Lakemont Park / (park scene with fireworks, carousel, ferris wheel, rollercoaster and three patrons) / 100 YEARS OF FAMILY EXCITEMENT / 1894 (dot) 1994

Reverse - (incuse serial number) / LAKEMONT / PARK / 1894 - 1994

And while ~~check~~ the old Pennsylvania amusement parks celebrate their own rich history, it's also interesting to note how Pittsburgh's Kennywood Park has been borrowing its history by pretending to be Luna Park with the construction of a Crescent-topped gateway into the older part of the park.





LEAP THE DIPS™

World's Oldest Roller Coaster
and a National Treasure



Built at Lakemont Park in 1902 by the E. Joy Morris Company of Philadelphia, the **Leap-The-Dips** is the oldest roller coaster in the world. This magnificent structure sat dormant for fourteen years and is being restored and put back into operation in 1999.

**“Do the Dips” at
Lakemont Park in
Altoona, PA starting
Memorial Day 1999.**

Visit our website at:
www.leapthedips.org

DOES A NEW GUY HAVE A CHANCE ?

BY VIC NOLAN

What do you mean, You ask!. Well, think about your collecting interest, perhaps your favorite area. Now, think about having to start that collection all over again! From scratch!

Now do I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION ?. I've been collecting tokens for about ten years now, I believe that in some areas, that I have a rather nice collection. I have had to join many clubs, purchase many books, do a lot of reading, and of course travel to many coin and antique shops. Not to mention a Zillion flea markets. And for you married folk, make sure that you marry the most understanding spouse that you can find!!!

One of my favorite token hunting spots is a large outdoor antique show held in my area once a month. I tend to do very well there. But as time goes on my finds get smaller, Do you know the feeling? Also prices are getting higher. The day's of the twenty-five cent token seem to be over. Tokens don't fall into one's hands as they did at one time. Coin dealers for the most part are finally seeing why those little pesty token people are always "bothering me about those things".

Well could you start all over! Maybe in some areas you could, for example transportation tokens. There seems to be enough of those around. But how can a new guy (OR GIRL) start? Could or would they have a chance at all those great "beauties" that you found for a fraction of there value? OR would they have to track down a old timer such as your self, and try to figure out why they have to pay two or three times the listed value just because you do.

Do we token lovers spend any time at a show trying to help a rookie who has a ton of "dumb" questions or do we push him out of our way to dive on that underpriced good for token?

Bottom line! supply is getting tight, but are we keeping a stock of future demand? (new guy's) ?

My point of this article is only to make you think. Do I love my hobby enough to make sure its going to be around ! And does a new guy have a chance !!!



PATCO SWAP & MEETING
Saturday, Oct. 23, 1999

A PATCO club meeting and swap will be held from 10:30 a.m. to Noon at the Pittsburgh Expomart in Monroeville, PA (near the Monroeville Mall), along Business Route 22.

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